Un. Theolog. Seminary
N. York city.
October 23d 1847

Dear Brethren

We wish to continue that interchange of fraternal regard which we consider so useful to us. Our relations, as fellow members, to the same body calls forth sympathy and interests us in each others welfare, as affecting the health of that body. but our connection as members in particular, who have the same office should endear us still more to each other. that we may long after each other in the bowels of Christ Jesus. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one to another" and it does us our hearts good to cultivate this love. by often communing with each other. that we may know each of the others welfare. that we may be able to pray for each other understandingly. that we may rejoice in each others joy and weep with each others grief.

Our term has but just commenced again. and we are entering upon its responsibilities. We are made to feel these responsibilities. as we realize more vividly our advance toward the end of all this preparation. the hurried flight of our time and opportunities, and the haste with which these great duties are coming upon us. to crush us. unless we are strong in God.

We realize it more. as we miss from among us our beloved Seniors. of the class. that has gone. our elder brethren upon whom we leaned. perhaps too much. some holy men. after Gods own heart. whom our Elder Brother Jesus. we think loved much. whose godly walk and conversation. were examples to us. enticing us to follow them. as they followed Christ whose prayers had power with God and prevailed and drew down blessings upon us. who living in close communion with God. and drawing from the wells of salvation. drank deep and continued draughts themselves. and pour them flowed rivers of living water to all around.

But they are gone. One is probably now travelling the rugged paths of Kurdistan on his way to Oroomiah. Two are perhaps in the Indian ocean drawing near to Bombay. Three expect to embark next week for the Hawaiian Islands. and three more soon follow to the one to China. one to Syria & one to Ceylon. Nine have already gone to the waste places of the South and west. and one to his Fathers home above.

We are left to fill their places and it makes us feel our need of strength from on high. We are brought also to realize more. from their example. the paramount importance. of holiness. in the ministry. The few of that class to whom special reference is made. 'were mighty men in God.' Their strength. their influence over all whom they met. the power of their sermons. lay in their constant

communion with God. and being filled with His Spirit. We need this power of Christ resting upon us. or we shall be unto the people to whom we preach. but as those who mock. or at the most. those who play skilfully on an instrument.. but the lovely song will not be the power of God unto salvation. unless we are filled with the Holy Ghost. We must drink ourselves continually at the fountain. that rivers of living water may flow spontaneously from us. and by hours spent daily in devotion. have our love kindled every day afresh. that it may flow and burn in the sight of all. and the light shine into the dark souls. and the heat warm the cold ones. And how amid these quiet scenes it is the place & time for us. to get so near to God, and learn such a constancy of faith. and union with Christ. that the flame may burn constantly and steadily on our altars to feed the fitful flames of Christians who will look to us.

We cannot speak much of the missionary interest among our number yet, until we become more settled

Nine of the Senior Class. either have, or expect to, offer themselves to the Board. and perhaps others may.

About the same number in the Middle class. are anticipating the foreign field.

In addition to our Society of Inquiry we have two associations. one the Foreign & the other the Home Missionary Ass. embracing only those. who have fully determined to labor in those respective fields if God permit. The members of each of these associations

are bound to Each other by a common aim and sympathy. and our weekly meetings for prayer and mutual advice and encouragement. have been found very important means of spiritual advancement.

Desiring to hear from you soon and know how God is dealing with you. we remain. dear brethren. yours in the family of Christ Jesus. our Elder Brothers.

On behalf of the Society

E. W. Dodd